

Wisbech 1906.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Wisbech Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN:-

The Annual report for the Town of Wisbech which I again have the pleasure of submitting to you for the past twelve months ending December 31st 1906, is I am pleased to say of an exceptionally satisfactory character, as the number of cases of Zymotic illness which have been reported to me have been comparatively very few in number and the cases taken generally have been of a very mild type; so much so that only three deaths were attributed to any infectious diseases.

The chief infectious disease has again been Scarlet Fever, but during the year only 11 cases were notified: this is a very small number compared with the 56 cases of last year and 167 of the previous year, and clearly shows the value of the greater precaution which has been taken during the convalescence of these cases.

Diphtheria, which is always a disease of great seriousness, appeared in 7 cases only, and all of these were very mild in character; the cases were isolated and in different parts of the district. With the new Antitoxic treatment this disease is no longer so fatal in its effects and in consequence the mortality has rapidly declined.

Measles this year has caused but little anxiety: at no time has this disease been prevalent to any extent.

There were a few cases of ^{mild} Typhoid Fever, 3 cases being notified the greater majority of these arose, the result of the excessive hot weather in the summer, but only in one case was this disease fatal.

Erysipelas this year has been more than usually prevalent amongst aged people: 13 cases were notified, some of these proving exceedingly severe, but only in one case fatal. In each case which has been reported to me we have endeavoured to prevent the spread of the disease, and a very liberal supply of disinfectants has been made: generally the Sanitary Inspector himself has superintended the use and distribution of these, and

no trouble has been spared in seeing that isolation and disinfection has been well carried out.

I have frequently visited the various parts of the district and found the Town during the past year has been kept in a very healthy and cleanly condition: the sanitary requirements generally have been well looked after, and special attention has been given to the Cowsneds, Milk Shops and Slaughter houses, all of which have been kept in a better condition than formerly.

The drainage of the Town, taken as a whole, has been satisfactory, both the small and the larger drains having worked fairly well: during however the very hot weather, in different parts of the Town the drains became somewhat offensive, due to the want of water in the gulley traps: as soon as complaints were made, flushing of these and the larger drains proved very effective in removing the nuisance and I cannot too strongly advise the periodical flushing of the sewers, especially during the summer months. Since however the erection of so many Ventilators, exceedingly few complaints have been made to me of the escape of sewer gas. The most important matter in connection with the drainage of the Town, is the condition of the Main Sewer which, in consequence of its choked condition, must have your very serious attention: this, together with the repaving of some of the main streets should be the chief objects in view during the coming year.

The supply of Marnham water continues to be all that can be desired and it is rapidly becoming the only water supply to the Town.

The number of Births during the year was 240, compared with 223 in the previous year: of these 113 were males and 128 females, giving a birth rate of 22 per 1000: this is the largest number of births that has been recorded during the last 10 years.

The number of deaths that were registered during the year was 153 compared with 149 last year, giving the slightly increased death rate for the borough of 15.3 per 1000, but such a death rate obviously shews the very healthy condition of this district, whilst the deaths from old age shew a very large

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proportion in this number. As well as these there were 42 deaths in the Workhouse, 3 in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and 12 in the North Cambridgeshire Hospital.

Deaths among infant children were proportionally very few this year, viz 25 which gives an Infantile death-rate of 2.3 per 1000.

The deaths from diseases of the Respiratory Organs were from Pneumonia 6, Phthisis 12 and Bronchitis 14, whilst Heart affections caused 13 and cancerous disease 12 deaths.

Herewith I beg to hand you very full tabular statements of Births, Sickness, Mortality etc for this period, together with comparative records of previous years.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very faithfully Yours

(signed)

HARRY GROOM

Medical Officer of Health.

